

DEFENCES OF NEW YORK.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
NATIONAL GUARD OF THE ARMY.

Condition of the Forts in the East River and Lower Hudson.—The New River Improvement—Work on the North River Channel—The Brooklyn Bridge.

The report of the Chief of Engineers of the United States Army to the Secretary of War, just transmitted to Congress, furnishes the following interesting information regarding the progress of public works in this vicinity, and the appropriations asked for the future:

THE FORCES.

Forts SCHUYLER, East River, New York.—Operations during the past year have been confined to completing the work on the new magazines and gun platforms of the fort, to the making of earthworks, and the erection of the second tier of dikes northward has also been commenced, and will be completed during the present working season.

Amount available July 1, 1869. \$17,779.07
Amount allotted for new magazine, Hudson River. \$17,779.07
Amount allotted for improving Hudson River. \$5,000.00
Amount allotted for general improvement. \$8,000.00
Total available July 1, 1869. \$31,757.07

Amount required to complete the improvement of Hudson River according to plan submitted. \$60,622.11

Amount necessary to be appropriated. \$14,322.14

Amount required for next fiscal year, and amount available July 1, 1869. \$100,000

To dredge and open the channel between Albany and Troy will probably require an amount of \$100,000.

The permanent improvement of that section of the river is considered by the engineer officer in charge of the port of Albany.

Hall Gate, East River, New York.—After the amount of \$100,000 had been made July 1, 1868, from the general appropriation for river and harbor improvements, approved July 25, 1868, new surveys of the channel were made, and the project was altered to give a depth of twenty-five feet at mean low water. Projects were invited, and \$5,000 was appropriated for the removal of the remaining portion of the old pier.

Heretofore the permanent improvement of the river has been entirely exhausted. The appropriation for the work is entirely exhausted.

It is proposed to extend the casemates of the water front, and to add a new magazine traverse, behind earth instead of the present stone parapet, to arrange the coverface for additional guns, and to provide a platform for the place of arms, to place a battery on the gages at the north end of the covered way, and to erect a new battery with magazine traverses and parapets beyond the mortise.

Estimated cost of these modifications, \$300,000.

Appropriation asked for the next fiscal year, \$100,000.

Fort Columbia, Governor's Island.—Operations have been confined to repairing the gages, the slopes, roads, and banks, the drawbridge, magazines, and engineer buildings, and in making a new magazine.

It is proposed to construct an earth-battery battery for heavy guns, with magazine traverses, and parapets, estimated cost of battery, \$100,000.

Appropriation asked for the next fiscal year, \$100,000.

Castles William, Governor's Island.—The brick floors of the gages have been repaired, the magazines, roads, and banks, the drawbridge, magazines, and engineer buildings, and in making a new magazine.

It is proposed to construct an earth-battery battery for heavy guns, with magazine traverses, and parapets, estimated cost of battery, \$100,000.

Appropriation asked for the next fiscal year, \$100,000.

Castle Williams, Governor's Island.—The brick floors of the gages have been repaired, the magazines, roads, and banks, the drawbridge, magazines, and engineer buildings, and in making a new magazine.

It is proposed to construct an earth-battery battery for heavy guns, with magazine traverses, and parapets, estimated cost of battery, \$100,000.

Appropriation asked for the next fiscal year, \$100,000.

Fort Washington, Governor's Island.—The brick floors of the gages have been repaired, the magazines, roads, and banks, the drawbridge, magazines, and engineer buildings, and in making a new magazine.

It is proposed to construct an earth-battery battery for heavy guns, with magazine traverses, and parapets, estimated cost of battery, \$100,000.

Appropriation asked for the next fiscal year, \$100,000.

Fort Hamilton, Governor's Island.—The brick floors of the gages have been repaired, the magazines, roads, and banks, the drawbridge, magazines, and engineer buildings, and in making a new magazine.

It is proposed to construct an earth-battery battery for heavy guns, with magazine traverses, and parapets, estimated cost of battery, \$100,000.

Appropriation asked for the next fiscal year, \$100,000.

Removal of the Work of the Engineer School in New York Harbor.—Under a resolution of the House of Representatives, the 29th March, 1868, it was informed that the removal of the work of the engineer school in New York Harbor, New York, to Rondout creek, was directed by Mr. George M. Newton was directed by the engineer in charge submitted a project for the removal of the school at Hallett's Point and also one for the removal of the school at the foot of the Hudson.

On the 11th May, 1868, an additional allotment of \$17,000 was made for the East River from the central appropriation for the improvement of rivers and harbors, and the further improvement of the Hudson River.

On the 11th June, 1868, another allotment of \$17,000 was made for the Hudson River.

Amount available July 1, 1869.

Total. \$34,000

Amount expended to June 30, 1869. \$16,562

Amount available July 1, 1869. \$17,038

The work now in progress will absorb all the available funds. The amount which can be probably expended during the next fiscal year is \$20,000.

Improvement of the Harbor of Rondout, Hudson River.—Under a resolution of the House of Representatives, the 29th March, 1868, it was informed that the removal of the work of the engineer school in New York Harbor, New York, to Rondout creek, was directed by Mr. George M. Newton was directed by the engineer in charge submitted a project for the removal of the school at Hallett's Point and also one for the removal of the school at the foot of the Hudson.

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Live Stock Market.

New York.—Wednesday, Dec. 22.—The weather was extremely bad for the sale of cattle, and with the exception of a few large animals, the sales were very slow, and the lots could not be closed out.

Holstein cattle, 1,000 lbs., worth \$40.

Angus cattle, 1,000 lbs., worth \$40.

Red cattle, 1,000 lbs., worth \$40.

Black cattle, 1,000 lbs., worth \$40.

White cattle, 1,000 lbs., worth \$40.

Yellow cattle, 1,000 lbs., worth \$40.

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